

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01

ACDA-05 IO-10 NIC-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8153

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: ROK PRESS QUOTES I CORPS COMMANDER ON NORTH KOREAN
THREAT

1. LOCAL PRESS EVENING OF JANUARY 30 AND MORNING
JANUARY 31 GAVE PAGE ONE PLAY SPACE AND HEAVY HEADLINE
TREATMENT TO REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO LT. GENERAL
HOLLINGSWORTH, I CORPS COMMANDER, IN MEETING WITH
KOREAN PRESS AFTER PRAYER BREAKFAST AT I CORPS GROUP HQ.

2. PRESS QUOTES HOLLINGSWORTH AS SAYING "WE HAVE
INDICATIONS THAT THERE ARE 13 MORE TUNNELS CONSTRUCTED
BY THE COMMUNISTS AND WE ARE NOW WORKING ON AN INTENSIVE
INVESTIGATION TO FIND THE PRECISE LOCATION OF TWO OF
THEM". QUOTING INDIRECTLY, PRESS REPORTS HOLLINGSWORTH
AS SAYING COMMUNISTS HAVE CAPABILITY OF LAUNCHING
SURPRISE ATTACK ACROSS TRUCE LINE AT ANY TIME AND THAT
THEY HAVE REMARKABLY REINFORCED THEIR ARTILLERY UNITS
AND CONCRETE BUNKERS ALONG DMZ. NEWS REPORTS QUOTE
HOLLINGSWORTH AS STATING FURTHER: "I THINK THE SIGNIFICANT
THING IS MOVEMENT OF THEIR ARTILLERY VERY CLOSE TO DMZ
AND ALSO THE CONTINUED HEAVY CONSTRUCTION OF REINFORCED CONCRETE

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POSITIONS WHERE THEY KEEP THEIR ARTILLERY PIECESTHEY CAN

REACH (I CORPS) HEADQUARTERS HERE BUT NOT QUITE TO SEOUL.
THEY DO HAVE ROCKETS THAT CAN REACH BELOW SEOUL.ENEMY
HAS CAPABILITY OF ATTACKING US ACROSS THE BORDER WITH GREAT
STRENGTH --- WITH ARTILERY, TANKS AND COMBAT DIVISIONS." THESE
REPORTS ALSO STATE HOLLINGSWORTH SAID HE PERSONALLY
HOPED USG WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ROKG WITH
ENOUGH MILITARY AID TO HELP IT COMPLETELY MODERNIZE ITS
FORCES.

3. COMUSK EIGHT ARMY PAO IS RESPONDING TO PRESS QUERIES
AS FOLLOWS: "WE DO NOT COMMENT ON STORIES APPEARING IN THE
LOCAL PRESS". THUS FAR, NO INQUIRIES HAVE BEEN DIRECTED
TO THE EMBASSY.
SNEIDER

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